

## **Pre-Ave Mission Update**

**January 16, 2004**

The WB-57F successfully flew its test and checkout flight today. The aircraft flew a 2.5-hour local sortie from Ellington Field, Houston Texas, with maximum altitude of 50,000 feet. All the science instruments were successfully integrated into the aircraft, and operated nominally during the flight. The Principal Investigators for each instrument are currently assessing the performance of their instrument, analyzing the data obtained during the flight, and are making required adjustments to prepare for the upcoming science flights.

The first science flight is scheduled for Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The mission will be deploying to San Jose, Costa Rica on January 24, 2004.



**WB-57 Returning from Pre-AVE Test Flight**



**WB-57 Test Flight (Close-up View)**